Principal's Message

Hello Parents, Friends and Carers

**HIGH STANDARDS – School Performance**

Our school has now been recognized for a Band 11 rating. This is the first time in the history of Education Queensland that Special Schools have been recognized at this level and it is with a great deal of proactive and positive support that this has come about.

I received notice at the end of last week that our school had been given a Band 11 status through the annual process for re-banding of schools. From this platform we will continue to advocate for the facilities, school grant allocation, staffing and school governance for our school. Our Regional Office team continues to give consistent support to our school and community and I envisage this continued support will prove invaluable for our future planning.

This is a celebration for all and a milestone in the history of Special Schools..

**SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS – a focus on knowing our students and meeting their needs**

Across this term our teachers are focussing on how we engage our students in learning new knowledge. We do this in a variety of ways and formats and the following photos of activities in classes show this range of strategies.

This includes structured learning tasks; learning in the community (where learned skills and knowledge are applied); learning in our familiar community (and enjoying the sunshine too)
Students receiving highly focused and intensive teaching on a particular aspect of a learning area/subject.

Our students are provided with a different year-level curriculum than their age cohort for an entire learning area/subject and are assessed and reported against the achievement standards for the year-level curriculum they are taught.

As we report on the progress of our students who are learning at a different year level than their age cohort, we will use the five-point scale specified for their age rather than the scale related to the year level of the curriculum they have been taught.

**Students who are on a highly individualised curriculum** will be assessed and reported against the learning expectation identified in their Individual Curriculum Plan (ICP). Reporting uses the appropriate highly individualised reporting scale.

Therefore parents and carers may see a different view of the report card this semester and see the Year Level achievement standards next to particular subjects for your child/ren. This is the first time that this has occurred in Education Queensland reporting. Should you have any questions regarding this report, we are happy to discuss this with you and are planning parent/carer information sessions in the upcoming weeks.

Until next week, please take good care of yourself and your family.

Beth Devonshire - Principal

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**Deputy Principal**

Hello to all Parents and Carers,

Students in Years 7-9 are supported through the programs, which address their well-being, involvement and belonging in the wider school community. While this looks different in every
secondary school, six principles have been developed to underpin Junior Secondary. Under six guiding principles, Junior Secondary will provide challenging educational offerings that engage young adolescents, while giving them a sense of belonging and support through the changes they face.

This week I would like to outline the second principle of the Junior Secondary program: Quality Teaching; teachers working with students in the Junior Secondary years will be given the skills they need through additional professional development, so they can support young teens through these crucial early high school years. This is because educational effectiveness for all students is crucially dependent of the provision of quality teaching by competent teachers who are equipped with effective, evidence-based teaching strategies that work, and are supported by capacity-building towards the maintenance of high teaching standards via strategic professional development at all levels of schooling.

Kyisha and Rachel enjoying a moment of hands on curriculum

Brad Tavelardis – Deputy Principal

Catching Up With Curriculum

Our school has begun a recycling program with the Senior Secondary students very active in sorting school waste into recycling containers.
Come and see their display in the front foyer of the administration building.

Reading in our school takes on many forms – digital, electronic, nonfiction and fiction texts, EBooks. Sensory stories to name a few. There are many opportunities for our students to access quality, age-appropriate books and safely choose their own independent reading material, thereby supporting our teachers’ efforts to foster literacy through a love of books, a desire to learn and the joy of reading for pleasure. Our School Book Fair will be in the week 25 – 29 May.

Tuesday 26 May will be a Book Parade. Prizes for best dressed

Junior parade 9.00 am and Senior Parade 10.00 am.

This year’s theme is: Kings, Queens and Castles!

Judy Clark - Head Of Curriculum

Early Years Department News

May is a very busy month in the world of Early Childhood Education. Our teachers of Prep students have attended a 3 hour seminar to inform them of the up-coming Australian Early Development Census 2015. These teachers will also complete on-line training about Early Childhood Development prior to access to the survey. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to be included in a government survey completed by their teachers.

The following is taken from the AEDC website:

What the AEDC means for parents - Every three years since 2009, the Australian Government has undertaken a census of all children in their first year of full-time schooling. This information is used to identify communities where families and children may require extra support and to help shape the future and wellbeing of Australian children.

About the AEDC - Each census year teachers use an Early Development Instrument, which is a series of specific questions, using their knowledge and observations of the children in their class. Children do not lose any class time and parents are not required to provide any additional information to the school. For the AEDC, your child’s data will be combined with data about the other children living within the same community. AEDC results for individual children are not reported and the AEDC is not used as an individual diagnostic tool. This means that an individual child report is not produced.

Your child - If your child is part of an AEDC census, the information provided by their teacher will make an important contribution to our understanding of the development of Australian children during...
their early years. Children not included in a census year still benefit from the insights gained by analysis of the AEDC and application of these learnings by early childhood educators and teachers.

For further information about the AEDC please see the parent letter coming home with your child.

Also this month is when the ‘Under Eights Week’ is launched for this year. Our Early Years Department will organise an in-school event for our students. “VOICES OF CHILDREN – Look, listen, hear, and respond”. Parents will be informed shortly. Importantly the focus this year is promoting children’s voice (using their preferred mode of communication) and participation in decision-making processes, and enabling greater opportunities to hear from children about their concerns.

This week I celebrate Andrew our Music teacher and Ben our HPE teacher. Their ability to make the learning experiences available to and engaging for every student is such a pleasure to witness. In each class I visit the students demonstrate in their own way how happy they are when they see a photo of Ben or Andrew in their daily visual timetable. Almost all our Early Years classes are now attending these lessons in the music room or oval or hall. Moving about the school in a safe and respectful manner is yet another skill our students are mastering. Well done everyone!

As always, seeking to promote your child’s chances of achieving ….

Jewel Bauer - Early Years Department Leader

Primary Years Department News

Recycling has arrived to the Primary Years! Currently every classroom should be equipped with a rubbish bin and a recycling bin. Our amazing students, supported by their great teacher aides and teachers, have already done an outstanding job with separating their recycling from the general waste. The Primary Years department has already been noticed for how well they are recycling by one of the organizers of the program. Kirsten, PY-B, has singled out Dani-Jo for her ability to separate recycling and keep class members and staff on task with their recycling efforts.

Students are continuing to demonstrate respect for learning, self and others in the Primary Years department:

• Zac from PY-A has been coming to school prepared to start the work day. He has been going right to his work station and starting work

• George from PY-D has been communicating his needs in an appropriate and acceptable way (using the SWPBS)

• Lilly from PY-E has been interacting well and incorporating others in activities

• Patricia from PY-C has been seeking to help others in her classroom

Thomas McKenna – Primary Years Department
Music Department News

The importance of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" part 2.

In the last newsletter I outlined the importance of students experiencing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in music lessons. Familiarity to the tune makes it instantly accessible and enjoyable for most students.

From a music curriculum standpoint there are also a number of reasons for teaching this tune.

Firstly, the tune uses notes from the C major scale which in musical terms is the most fundamental starting point for understanding pitch in music. By playing or singing the song, students begin to implicitly learn the scale ie: without a teacher standing in front of them at a whiteboard saying: "This is a C major scale".

Secondly, the tune starts on the note "C", which is the first note (tonic), the starting point in the C major scale. Again the students implicitly learn a foundational building block for music.

Further to this the tune uses leaps (jumping from a low note to a high note ie C to G ) steps (moving between adjacent notes ie G to A) and repetition (most notes are played twice in a row).

It has been a joy to see our student's success with this song.

Andrew Keppie - Music teacher

Health & Physical Education News

HPE – Our school being active and adventurous!

Students from Primary Years, Junior and Senior Secondary took to our freshly irrigated back oval this week to take part in development skills sessions put on by the NRL Development Team. This week students practised holding the ball like a hamburger, running with the ball, avoiding defenders and scoring tries. Everyone did good listening and received a certificate for taking part in the 3 week program. Thank you very much to Development Officer Joe and the NRL for supporting our students being active and adventurous!
The date for the Peninsula Fun Run has been changed from 11 September. It is now Friday 4 September, Sutton's Beach, Redcliffe (Week 8, Term 3).

Ben Byrne - HPE Teacher

Student Services News

Congratulations to our School Captains Jahkobi and Georgia who have been very brave and led School Assembly the last 2 weeks. Both of these young people have worked hard to learn the process, how they need to stand, what they need to say and have the confidence to stand in front of everyone and deliver assembly. Both students were proud of their achievements and staff were impressed with how they presented themselves. Next week we will have our Vice Captains Bow and James have a turn and with all their practice I know they are ready to stand and lead a great assembly too.

Each week this team works with me to build their leadership skills, their confidence, and to demonstrate our school values and expectations. Lyndsay has been a part of this journey too, alas she has missed some sessions, but only because she is learning work and leadership skills on work experience and representing our school in the wider community.

I value the input our school leaders have on school issues, their point of view, their dedication to the role they have taken on this year. All of these young people are keen to learn and show an enthusiasm for their role of Student Leaders. It is a pleasure to be working with them and watching them blossom into young adults.

Thank you Jahkobi, Georgie, bow, James and Lyndsay, keep up the good work.

Nicole Coady - Student Services Department Leader

News From Our Chappy

I have started the first ever Special School (V.I.T.A.L) Values Initiated Through Active-base Learning, Unlimited program with grade Junior Secondary girls JSA Room L102 Katrina's class. I had a wonderful volunteer Gale Campbell assisting as all students joined in.

The program will run for 5 weeks and there are fun active based games to promote the girls to learn the following values:

Personal values: TRUST, COURAGE, HONESTY, HONOUR, ACCEPTANCE OF SELF, SELF-CONTROL, SELF-WORTH, PERSEVERANCE, USING POSITIVE SELF-TALK.
Interpersonal values: **ACCEPTING OTHERS, WORKING IN GROUPS, HAVING COMMITMENT TO A TEAM, CONSIDERING OTHERS, LISTENING WELL, COMMUNICATING WELL, HAVING EMOTIONAL TRUST, BEING SOMEONE PEOPLE CAN RELY ON.**

Blessings,

Tania Byers - Chaplain

*Working with others serves all of us well. Today is great. Tomorrow is even greater.*

Student Awards

Congratulations to all students who have received awards this week.

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**BANKING AWARDS**

Noah H, Joshua H, Erin W, Blake W

Hospitality & Tuckshop News
Hello Parents and Caregivers

We expect to be offering our full tuckshop menu from week 4, for Term 2. The Taste on Torrens team of staff and students look forward to continuing making our homemade products including fruit salad, sandwiches, sausage rolls, pies, pasta bolognase and many more items.

Once registered with a Flexischools account, Parents & Caregivers have the option to set up weekly standing orders or place orders prior or on the day of tuckshop. Daily orders must be registered in Flexischools before 8.45am each day. Tuckshop is open weekly on Wednesday and Thursday.

Parents and caregivers are still able to join and register online for Flexischools at www.flexischools.com.au

Regards

Taste of Torrens team.

Tony Dwan - Hospitality Teacher

P&C News

P&C Meeting – 6.00pm 12 May 2015
Kings Queens and Castles

Book Fair

Date 25 May to 29 May 2015

9am to 1pm each day

In the Resource Centre

A huge selection of books from $5.00

Students will attend with teachers and can fill in a wish list to bring home with books they would like.
The back of the wish list gives directions on how to pay either online or phone and how to fill out your
payment details. This makes the wish list a gift card that your child can bring to the book fair and purchase their books.

Please let your families and friends know about our book fair and up to 30% of all purchases will be returned to the school as books for our library.

See you all at our Book Fair

Debbie Grey Vice President P&C

**Read More in May Challenge**

**SCHOLASTIC Reading Competition**

(Read for at least 10 minutes per day in May)

For information or to enter go to


**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop is open each Wednesday from 9:00am–10:00am.

Uniform order forms are also available on the school website.

**School Banking**

A reminder that school banking is on each Tuesday. Please send your child’s banking book on this day.

Thank You

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**Caboolture My Time**

MyTime groups provide support for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic medical condition. MyTime Caboolture is at Caboolture Special School from 9:30am. We welcome back old members and welcoming new members. If you have any questions, please email: mytimecaboolture@yahoo.com.au
Community News

Indigenous Families

If any families in the community are looking for any type of medical assistance please contact your local clinic, **Indigenous Urban Institute Of Health on 5429 1000**

If you also have any questions about your Centrelink payments your contact for the Caboolture Office is **Indigenous Liaison Officer, Ashleigh Simpson on 1800 136 380 or 3480 1254**

If you have issues with any other problems please contact **Sue Williams, Indigenous Community Advisor on Monday 8:30am - 2:30pm & Thursday 8:30am - 12:30pm on 0477 756 958**
Torrens Road
CABOOLTURE SOUTH, QLD, 4506

07 5431 4444
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